

COMPUTER METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREVIEWING FILES
OUTSIDE OF AN APPLICATION PROGRAM

Abstract of the Invention

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A method and apparatus for previewing images and image file information without opening and running an application in working memory. The previewing of a user-selected file includes a summary of file
10 characteristics and contents including images. The summary synopsis file information and characteristics such as height, width, length, color type, resolution, compression type used for storing and forming the file, annotation graphics of the file and the like. The
15 preview also provides display of the file images, preferably in a reduced size manner for ease of user previewing. The file preview apparatus and method of the present invention include operating system means coupled to a display assembly for generating display of
20 indications of file characteristics of the user-selected files. The operating system means obtains and enables display of file characteristics indicia, external to and outside of an application program opened and running in the working memory. The display
25 assembly is responsive to the operating system means and provides display of the file characteristics indicia in a manner free of opening an application program in the working memory.

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